

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 /124 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2502
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, GATT, JA
SUBJECT: GATT - JAPANESE RESTRAINTS ON IMPORTS OF
LEATHER

REF: (A) STATE 184344, (B) STATE 185979

1. SUMMARY: GATT COUNCIL AGREED TO ESTABLISH ARTICLE XXIII:2 PANEL IF BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS DO NOT RESOLVE MATTER PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 20. END SUMMARY.
 2. IN GATT COUNCIL JULY 24 WE USED FOLLOWING SCENARIO WORKED OUT WITH JAPANESE DEL (AMB. SAWAKI) PRIOR TO MEETING. U.S. DEL READ STATEMENT IN COUNCIL AS PER REF A WITH AMENDMENTS REF B. JAPANESE DEL, IN SHORT STATEMENT, POINTED OUT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SENSITIVITY OF ISSUE AND URGED THAT COUNCIL TREAT MATTER DELICATELY. HE NOTED THAT JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WAS COMMITTED TO SUPPORT SOCIAL CLASS INVOLVED AND TO PROTECT THEIR
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LEATHER PRODUCTION. HE DOUBTED THAT GOVERNMENT COULD ENVISION AN INCREASE IN THE QUOTA. (SAWAKI TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WAS CONSIDERING INCREASING QUOTA FOR QUALITY OF LEATHER PRODUCED BY U.S. BUT COULD NOT DO THE SAME FOR OTHER INTERESTED CPS.) HE ASKED FOR FURTHER TIME TO PURSUE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS BUT SAID, IF THESE DID NOT COME TO A SATISFACTORY

CONCLUSION, THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD FOLLOW THE NORMAL ARTICLE XXIII:2 PROCEDURES. WE REPLIED, ON BASIS OF JAPANESE DEL'S COMMENTS, THAT WE WERE NOT OPTIMISTIC BUT WERE WILLING TO PURSUE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS AS LONG AS A DEFINITE TIME LIMIT WAS SET. WE SUGGESTED THAT DATE OF 20 SEPTEMBER BE ESTABLISHED BY COUNCIL. CANADA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, HONG KONG AND INDIA ALL EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN MATTER AND SAID, IF PANEL WERE ESTABLISHED, THAT THEY MIGHT WANT TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS TO THE PANEL. COUNCIL CHAIRMAN THEN READ THE FOLLOWING PRE-AGREED TEXT:

"THE COUNCIL REQUESTED THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN TO PURSUE THEIR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XXIII:1 ON THIS MATTER FOR A FURTHER PERIOD. THE COUNCIL AGREES THAT IF THESE CONSULTATIONS DO NOT LEAD TO A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY SOLUTION, AN APPROPRIATE PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE UNITED STATES' COMPLAINT UNDER ARTICLE XXIII:2 WOULD BE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PANEL. THE COUNCIL AUTHORIZED ITS CHAIRMAN TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PANEL WITH APPROPRIATE TERMS OF REFERENCE IF THE MATTER HAD NOT BEEN SETTLED SATISFACTORILY ON THE PROPOSED BILATERAL BASIS BY 20 SEPTEMBER 1978."

VANDEN HEUVEL
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